

## **Dr. William C. Hand, M.D.**

### Howard Borchard

Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but advancement is gained by painstaking and long-continued effort. Prestige in the medical profession is the outcome of strong mentality, close application, mastery of medical principles and the ability to apply theory to practice. Dr. Hand, who owned and operated the Hand Hospital in Hartley, was an example of such prestige.

He was born on June 12, 1877, in Miami County, Ohio. His parents came to Iowa and settled in Franklin County where his father was a veterinarian. Dr. Hand was educated in the public schools in Hampton, Iowa. He taught in a rural school for four years. At age 20, he enlisted in the Army during the Spanish-American War. In 1902, he entered medical school at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. After graduating in 1906, he located in a downtown Hartley building.

In 1909, he purchased a home from the Colby family and opened it as the Hand Hospital. Extensive remodeling made it a first-rate hospital, able to accommodate fifteen patients. Two resident nurses were in attendance at all times. In 1914, the hospital served one hundred and fifty surgical and medical patients. In addition to being one of the most successful physicians in the northwest corner of Iowa, Dr. Hand gave generously of his time to the community.

He and his wife, the former Jessie Ellis, of Sheffield, Iowa, had no children. He coached American Legion Junior baseball teams for many years and on several occasions developed teams of outstanding merit. Jim Fanning, his most noted player, went on to become a Major League baseball player.

On April 22, 1943, at age sixty-six, Dr. Hand suffered a fatal heart attack at his home. He had continued to practice medicine and operate the Hand Hospital with Dr. J. C. Peterson until the time of his death.